

The current proposal before the commission concerning Broadband Over Powerlines, if enacted upon and approved, would mean the end of all high frequency communications throughout the United States. The very premise that the communications services could co-exist with BPL is a misnomer. Measurements already conducted in areas where BPL is in beta test indicate near field and far field radiation that would completely cover the signals under 0 dBm that exist, and the interference created by legal transmission of short wave radio (amateur radio) would cause ingress interference to the BPL service that would result in disruption of data flow. There is no practical way that BPL could co-exist without serious threat to all forms of HF communications, both amateur, government (military), citizens band and land mobile service. In addition, the signals from 54 MHz to 80 MHz would pose a threat to off the air reception on television channels 2 through 5.

To even suggest that interference complaints would be dealt with on a case by case basis is a bad premise, since the power utilities are responsible for cleaning up the interference created by leaky high voltage insulators, and for the most part, ignore the complaints from radio amateurs. Why would they even attempt to resolve even more serious problems created by BPL. Their sole reason for petitioning the FCC to approve this service is revenue enhancement, and resolving interference problems is counter productive to the goal of revenue enhancement, and would be put on their lowest priority.

As an amateur extra class license (K9ES), as a holder of a general radio telephone license with ships radar endorsement (formally a 1st class commercial radio telephone license), and as an electrical engineer working in the EMI / EMC arena, I implore you to deny those interests their bid to destroy the hobby, from which I have participated over the past 45 years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eric L. Smitt K9ES